

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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June 1955

SUBJECT KVP Personnel Policies

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. On 31 March 1955, Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the FDJ Central Council, held a conference with FDJ secretaries. At this conference, he stated that the GDR government was not presently planning the promulgation of universal military service. A military service law would only be passed after the international situation had become so critical that military defense measures would become an absolute necessity. Within the framework of measures planned for the national defense of the country, the KVP will be increased by 65,000 volunteers by the end of this year. Simultaneously the term of service with the KVP will be reduced to two years. KVP officers will continue to serve for 12 years.
2. In order to guarantee the combat efficiency and rapid training of KVP units, pre-military training for males and females from 14 to 25 years old will be intensified. The recruitment campaign among FDJ members for the KVP, and efforts to recruit officer candidates will also be intensified. In regard to West German draft-dodgers coming to East Germany, Honecker stated that they would not be received into the KVP. This attitude was motivated by the desire to keep the promise given to young West Germans and by the explanation that these draft-dodgers must be considered as unreliable elements. According to Honecker, these West Germans would have to make their contributions to the national security of the GDR by doing conscientious work in the jobs assigned to them.
3. It was learned from officers of various KVP units that all KVP volunteers whose three-year term of service had expired were discharged according to schedule in the second half of March. Only those soldiers who were well qualified to become officers or NCOs were induced to extend their term of service.

Comment. The prudent attitude taken by the GDR government in the matter of universal service is in line with Soviet directives. Information that the GDR intends to raise the personnel strength of the KVP by 65,000 "volunteers" by the end of 1955 [redacted] According to all information available, the discharge of KVP soldiers who have served for three years is being effected in two stages. 25X1

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